

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 31, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 31, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stanley Neron presented the following statement at 6:50 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a special meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, August 28, 2017. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present to this August 31, 2017 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must sign in prior to the commencement of public participation so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Rodriguez (arr. 8:38 p.m.), Neron – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Neron presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may

address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mr. Neron called upon the first public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that the meetings do not start on time and suggested that the Board meetings could start at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Moreira stated that the Elizabeth Parents and Student Cares organization is collecting supplies on September 2nd from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to send to victims of hurricane Harvey. Mrs. Moreira stated that she received the uniform list and for grades 4-8 girls cannot wear pants. Mrs. Moreira stated that girls should be allowed to wear pants and girls and boys should be allowed to wear shorts. Mrs. Moreira stated that the uniforms require logos which is expensive and can be a hardship and suggested that as long as the uniform is the right colors it should be acceptable.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Iris Medina, to address the Board.

Iris Medina spoke about a problem with her child.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes speak with the parent.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Ricky Castaneda, to address the Board.

Ricky Castaneda spoke about the DACA program and asked the Board to take a stand against President Trump’s policy. Mr. Castaneda suggested communication by Facebook and social media to increase participation by the parents at the Board meetings.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other citizens to address the Board, Mr. Neron declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Neron offered a prayer to all those affected by hurricane Harvey. Mr. Neron stated that a few years ago we were impacted by hurricane Sandy and it is devastating. Mr. Neron thanked Mrs. Moreira for her outreach to send supplies to the victims. Mr. Neron stated that the Board is reaching out to the Superintendent for ideas for collection and they want to make sure that it gets to the right hands.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for personnel, specifically, interviews. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 7:10 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 8

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves excused herself from the meeting at 8:05 p.m.
Mr. Rodriguez excused himself from the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 10:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (negative- R.A., L.F.), Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Approve Use

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorizing Donation of Recording Studio Equipment

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointing Varsity Brands Holding Co. d/b/a Varsity Spirit Fashions and Supplies, LLC to Provide Cheerleading Athletic Equipment and Supplies

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointing Fred J. Miller, Inc. to Provide Marching Band Uniforms

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Director of Special Services – Diana Pinto-Gomez

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Perreira, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Special Services – Danica Davidman

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Perreira, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Special Services – Justine McConkey

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Perreira, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages, Grades 6-12 –
Rebecca Orellana

A motion was made by Mrs. Amin, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Perreira – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Supervisor of Guidance – Anthony J. DiDonato

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 6

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Liliana C. Dias

A motion was made by Mrs. Amin, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – M.L.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion did not receive the required number of votes and did not pass.

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Neron – 4

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Messrs. Nina, Perreira – 3

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Family and Community Outreach Coordinator – Wilnes Jilus

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Transfer – S.J.

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion did not receive the required number of votes and did not pass.

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Neron – 4

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Perreira – 3

Resolution – Transfer to Supervisor of World Languages, Division of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages – Ileana Fernandez Mena

A motion was made by Mrs. Amin, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Correction of Salary of Acting Director of Athletics – Bartolomeo Candelino

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Correction of Appointment of Principal – Alina M. Stewart

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Amin, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary